FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

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FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

14 AUGUST 1986

Israel

Approval of Arbitral Compromis — The Inner Cabinet decided to endorse the arbitral compromis on Tabah and the document will probably be signed within 2 weeks, Prime Minister Shim'on Peres announced at a news conference broadcast by Jerusalem television. The Israeli negotiators' report on Egyptian-Israeli relations was also approved during the Inner Cabinet meetings, which lasted over 7 hours, he disclosed. Peres said he expects to meet with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak after the arbitral compromis is signed, though Jerusalem radio subsequently reported that the two sides may agree to sign the document during their summit meeting. The radio revealed that arrangements for the summit will be coordinated between Mubarak's officials and Avraham Tamir, director general of Peres' office, who will leave for Cairo in a few days. Meanwhile, during a telephone conversation reported by Jerusalem television, Peres and Mubarak expressed hope that they will be able to meet soon.

The decision to approve the arbitral compromis was opposed by two members of the Inner Cabinet, Ari'el Sharon and Moshe Arens, Jerusalem radio noted. Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir told the radio that the wording of the compromis is "not ideal" but "we could not have reached a better document under the present circumstances."

Comment on Lebanon Raid — The chief of the General Staff told journalists that the 11 August air strike near Ba'labakk proved the Air Force's ability to carry out missions in areas covered by Syrian missiles, *The Jerusalem Post* reported.

Lebanon

A car bomb exploded in the Al-Dawrah area of East Beirut 14 August, killing 15 people and wounding 100 others, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon radio reported. Some of the victims were burned to death inside their cars and the blast damaged over 60 apartments and shops, according to Voice of Lebanon radio.

As for the political situation in the Christian sector 14 August, Radio Free Lebanon reported that a meeting of the Phalangist Party and Lebanese Forces leadership was temporarily suspended by Phalangist leader George Sa'adah because of the appearance of gunmen in the streets of Al-Ashrafiyah.

On the Muslim side, the clandestine Voice of the Mountain radio broadcast a 13 August speech by Walid Junblatt in which the Progressive Socialist Party leader promised to "personally begin purging" his party and to correct "abnormalities" in it caused by "silly, naive, profiteering individuals."

Iran-Iraq War

Iranian aircraft bombed an Iraqi oil installation at Kirkuk 13 August, damaging the facility's computerized control center, IRNA reported. However, an Iraqi military spokesman cited by INA denied that an attack against Kirkuk occurred, and announced that an attempted raid against Al-Sulaymaniyah was repulsed. In the Gulf, Iraqi aircraft hit a "large maritime target" early 14 August, according to a military spokesman cited by Voice of the Masses radio.

In an interview with Tehran radio after a Supreme Defense Council meeting, Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani denied that the 12 August Iraqi raid against Sirri Island was a dangerous development, maintaining that Iran is capable of very easily moving its oil export facilities farther east along the Iranian coast as far as Chah Bahar, a bay east of the Strait of Hormuz. The Majlis speaker asserted that Iranian listening posts and radar facilities recorded conversations of Iraqi pilots and tracked the course of their planes, thus proving the involvement of "others" in the attack. Asked about the recent defection of a pilot to Iraq, the Majlis speaker said it was a "small incident" by an "unknown pilot," and proves that Iraq is in dire need of propaganda tricks.

In Cairo, an *Al-Ahram* report cited by MENA said the main purpose of the Iraqi defense minister's visit to Egypt was to request Egyptian "military support" and weapons manufactured by the Egyptian arms industry.

Syria

The USSR has reassured Syria that Jewish emigration will not be discussed during the upcoming Soviet-Israeli talks in Helsinki, WAKH reported, citing an article in the UAE's *Al-Ittihad*. Quoting London-based Arab diplomatic sources, the newspaper said the Soviet Union reiterated its stand that there will not be a return to complete relations with Israel until after a full withdrawal from all occupied territories.

Elsewhere, Voice of Lebanon radio alleged that 340 Communists and Ba'thists in Damascus, Homs, and Aleppo were arrested in connection with "recent incidents" in the country, adding that six Ba'th Party officials are being held on suspicion of involvement in the events.

Western Sahara

Polisario attacks along the security walls in July killed 180 Moroccan troops, according to a Saharan communique cited by Algiers radio.

Further Reportage on SARC Ministerial Meeting

Results of 12-13 Aug Session

BK131651 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 13 Aug 86

[Text] The first session of the SARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] Council of Ministers has ended in Dhaka with a call for more concrete, action-oriented projects, and programs for regional cooperation.

In a joint communique issued at the end of the 2-day meeting this afternoon, the council approved the standing committees' proposals to streamline the implementation of various programs under the integrated program of action. A regional agricultural information center will be set up in Bangladesh while a regional meteorological research center [will be set up] in Dhaka.

The council endorsed the Standing Committee's recommendations on the setting up of a SARC secretariat. A working group will make appropriate recommendations on the staffing, funding, and functions of the proposed secretariat. The council directed the Standing Committee to ensure emphasis on the increasing participation of women in the work program of various sectors.

The council approved the convening of an early meeting of the group of experts to report on various measures to control terrorism. The proposed meeting of the study group of drug trafficking and drug abuse will be held in Dhaka from the 16th of next month.

The Council of Ministers expressed the view that areas like education, trade, management of disaster relief, establishment of investment companies, improvement of postal, telecommunications, and air links between SARC capitals, including special tariff rates, should be gradually included in the integrated program of action.

With regard to proposal from external agencies for collaboration with SARC in various fields, the ministers reiterated that such initiative should stem from SARC itself based upon its own determination of priorities.

They also endorsed the proposal to convene a SARC conference on South Asian children in New Delhi in November next with the assistance of UNICEF.

At the end of the first session of the SARC Council of Ministers, a news conference was held. It was largely attended by journalists from home and abroad.

Speaking at the conference on behalf of the council, the Bangladesh foreign minister, Mr Humayun Rashid Chowdhury explained the decisions of the 2-day session. These will now be placed before the second SARC summit in Bangalore later this year.

SARC is considering to establish a central data bank to enable the member countries to have a clear picture of one another. This was stated by the Maldives Attorney General Mr Ahmed Zaki in an exclusive interview with Radio Bangladesh in Dhaka today. He led his country's delegation to the SARC council meeting.

The bank will also facilitate member countries to have clear idea of the constraints before taking up any project. He appreciated the role of Radio Bangladesh in promoting the cause of regional cooperation.

The foreign ministers of Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka, and the attorney general of the Maldives called on President Ershad in Dhaka today.

The president who is the current chairman of the SARC was briefed by them about the outcome of their meeting.

Karmal Approves Decrees Issued by Council Presidium

LD14041 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 13 Aug 86

[Text] After approval by Babrak Karmal, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and president of the DRA Revolutionary Council, Decree No 60 dated 5 June 1986 issued by the DRA Revolutionary Council Presidium about the amendment of Article 5 of the institution of medical justice services, was published in the special issue of the Official Gazette dated 13 August 1986 and came into force.

Likewise, after the approval of Comrade Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers, Resolution No 90 dated 12 July 1986 issued by the DRA Council of Ministers regarding the amendment of a number of articles and supplement to the provisions on distribution of government residential apartments and building plots in Kabul city, was also published in the above issue of the Official Gazette. The charter of the computer services enterprise of the DRA Central Statistic Departments and the charter of the Army's commercial enterprise, were also published in the above issue of the Official gazette.

Presidium Approves Decrees on Armed Forces

LD140656 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0415 GMT 14 Aug 86

[Text] Kabul, August 13, BAKHTAR — The Presidium of the Revolutionary Council of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan has approved a series of five decrees in recognition of the role played by the Armed Forces of the DRA in defending the independence, national sovereignty, territorial integrity, the gains of the April Revolution as well as for raising the morale of the Armed Forces.

The first in the series is about the approval of the title of Hero of the DRA and the regulation pertaining to it. The decree is in recognition of the role of the citizens of the DRA who have shown heroism in defending the gains of the April Revolution, national independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, and have made distinguished contributions toward the consolidation of the defence might of the DRA.

The second decree relates to the privileges of the heroes of the DRA in recognition of the great services rendered by them to the nation.

The third is regarding the symbol of the Army of the DRA, aimed at motivating the Army personnel with high combat spirit in accordance with military traditions and the cultivation of a sense of honour among the personnel of the Army of the DRA.

The fourth decree deals with the approval of honourary titles, heroes regiment, its regulations, the description of the flag of the regiment and a special chest symbol of the recipients.

The fifth in the series pertains to the approval of an honorary title of the Army, Air Force and Border Forces of the DRA and the description of distinct chest symbols of the recipients.

Pakistan Policy on Opposition Parties Criticized

LD140650 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0430 GMT 10 Aug 86

[Text] Kabul, August 13, *Bakhtar*: A political observer of *Bakhtar* writes: Mohammed Khan Junejo, Pakistani premier in his radio-televised speech has announced the ban of the political gathering scheduled to be held by the opposition parties on Thursday which coincides with the independence day of Pakistan.

Political observers have called it a new political defeat for Islamabad administration. The people of Pakistan in the vast demonstrations and gatherings have denounced the Pakistan-Washington military collaboration and the participation of Islamabad in the intensification and continuation of the imperialist undeclared war against Afghanistan.

The people of Pakistan have suffered much in the past eight years reign of terror of the military government of General Ziaul Haq. The trampling down of the basic rights and freedoms of the Pakistani people had become the order of the day.

It is sufficient to point out in this conection about the proceedings of the press conference held in the campus of British Parliament under the initiative of the movement for restoration of human rights in Pakistan.

The participants of the conference confirmed that Islamabad regime has converted Pakistan into a prison for the progressive, patriotic political forces and is continuing to suppress them cruelly. The military regime is doing all this against the military assistance it receives from the United States.

The participants of the conference confirmed that Pakistan has been converted into a springboard of the imperialist undeclared war against the DRA.

The Pakistani people have realised the fact that the Reagan administration by providing the most modern offensive weapons deal amounting to four billions and two hundred million dollars, is misusing the soil of Pakistan for all its suppressive activities against the Pakistani people and the countries of the region.

Thus, the political parties of progressive forces and the peace-loving personalities of Pakistan have demanded from Ziaul Haq's regime to put an end to its anti-Afghan policy and the undeclared war against the DRA and to sit around the table for direct talks and to withdraw the Afghan fugitives from their land.

The ruling circles of Pakistan must understand that they can not continue their ignominious role indefinitely.

Gandhi 'Virtually' Confirms Gorbachev Visit in 1986

BK131617 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 13 Aug 86

[Text] The prime minister has said that the union government is determined to see that nobody will be allowed to destabilize the country and impair its unity and integrity. Addressing the general body meeting of the Congress-I Parliamentary Party [CPCI] in New Delhi today, Mr Rajiv Gandhi said it is a constitutional responsibility of the Center to ensure the sovereignty of India.

Briefing newsmen, the CPCI secretary, Mr Hari Krishna Shastri, said the prime minister also pointed out that the country has to pay a price for taking a stand based on self-respect and independence in international affairs and these values will never be compromised. He wondered whether it was a mere coincidence that as India took a very strong and uncompromising stand on Libya, the so-called independent Khalistan was announced.

During his speech, Mr Gandhi gave a detailed account of recent visits to London and Mexico and also to the unscheduled stopover at Moscow. While he was in Moscow, it was virtually confirmed that the Soviet leader, Mr Gorbachev, will visit India this year.

Referring to the Commonwealth minisummit in London, the prime minister said it was unanimously felt that the situation in South Africa was very grim and steps were essential to avoid a bloodbath. Unfortunately, Britain was still not willing to go the full length with other Commonwealth nations to take effective measures by way of economic sanctions against Pretoria. Though it was agreed that the Nassau agreement has to be implemented and 11 measures of sanctions clamped, Britain agreed only 2, 3 of these.

Mr Gandhi also spoke in detail of the six-nation disarmament conference at Ixtapa in Mexico. He said the meeting was attended by scientists, economists and other eminent persons who felt that every effort must be made for total destruction of existing nuclear arsenals if the human race is to be saved from the real danger of extinction.

According to Mr Shastri, the prime minister appeared unhappy with the situation created by the failure of an engine of the special Air India plane due to which the aircraft was diverted to Moscow while coming from Prague to New Delhi. Mr Gandhi said an aircraft certified airworthy must be airworthy. If it fails, then maybe the certification process is not stringent enough.

Soviet Vice President Arrives for 10-Day Visit

BK140341 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 14 Aug 86

[Text] The Soviet vice president and president of Azerbaydzhan, Mr S.B. Tatliyev [name and title as heard], arrived in New Delhi today on a 10-day visit to India.

He was received at the airport by the information and broadcasting minister, Mr V.N. Gadgil.

Foreign Secretary Meets With Pakistan Counterpart

BK140321 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 14 Aug 86

[Text] Pakistan is willing to complete the process of holding the meetings of the subcommissions before the third meeting of the Indo-Pak Joint Commission takes place in Islamabad. This was conveyed to foreign secretary Mr A.P. Venkateswaran by the Pakistan foreign secretary, Mr Abdul Sattar, when they met in Dhaka for informal discussions on bilateral relations.

The joint commission was to have met in March or April as decided by the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, and President Ziaul Haq at their meeting in New Delhi.

The two foreign secretaries also discussed irritants in bilateral relations.

Further Reportage on Situation in Punjab State

Barnala Criticizes Special Powers

BK140354 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 14 Aug 86

[Text] The Punjab chief minister, Mr Surjit Singh Barnala, has described the move of invoking Article 249 of the Constitution as uncalled for.

In a statement in Chandigarh he said this is likely to result in erosion of powers of the state.

Mr Barnala said that the state government has taken several steps to counter the menace of terrorism and the general law and order situation is now much better.

Reportage on Events Marking Independence Day

Junejo Pledges Democracy, Unity

BK140537 Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu 0500 GMT 14 Aug 86

[Text] Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo inaugurated the 40th independence day celebrations throughout the country by unfurling the national flag at a solemn ceremony in front of the parliament house in Islamabad. Speaking on the occasion, he reaffirmed his government's commitment that democracy and the people's unity in the country will be stabilized in order to protect the independence which has been achieved after enormous sacrifice.

The prime minister said that Pakistan came into existence through a democratic process and emphasized that we should make a pledge to always entrust power to the elected representatives of people. He said that an elected government is functioning in the country and democratic institutions are working freely. The Koran and sunna enjoy supermacy over everything else, basic rights have been restored, political freedom under the Constitution has been ensured, and developmental plans are being implemented for the progress and prosperity of the people.

Mohammad Khan Junejo said that Pakistan was formed through a unique movement under the active leadership of the great leader Mohammad Ali Jinnah. Our forefathers made massive sacrifices for this purpose and we should rededicate ourselves for the attainment of the objectives behind the formation of Pakistan so that these sacrifices are not wasted.

Karachi Confirms Detentions

BK131545 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 13 Aug 86

[Text] A federal Interior Ministry spokesman said in a statement in Islamabad today that after Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo's [11 August] announcement, it is hoped that the sanctity of independence day will be maintained in the interest of national unity and harmony. But, unfortunately, certain elements of the opposition have planned to hold public rallies on this occasion which could provoke the citizens and disrupt law and order.

In view of this situation, the spokesman added, certain leaders and persons involved in organizing unlawful rallies for 14th August have been detained to check the lawbreakers' attempts to disrupt law and order, especially on independence day. The government is keeping a watch on the situation and is determined to maintain peace at all costs. The spokesman said the provincial government have taken necessary steps to maintain law and order.

Opposition Supporters, Police Clash

NC131928 Paris AFP in English 1915 GMT 13 Aug 86

[Text] Pakistan, Aug 13 (AFP) — Several hundred Pakistani opposition supporters defied a government ban on gatherings Wednesday to carry out a march through Lahore, in which a police motorcycle was burned and a bus damaged, eyewitnesses said.

Earlier, opposition supporters clashed with police in Parachi and Faisalabad to protest against a government crackdown in which several hundred opposition figures were arrested Wednesday.

But an Interior Ministry spokesman warned opposition groups planning to defy a ban on gatherings Thursday to mark Pakistan's 40th independence day, that the government would maintain peace "at all costs." The ministry also confirmed the arrests of leaders of the opposition coalition, the Movement for the Restoration of Democracy (MRD). Opposition sources said several hundred arrests were made.

The government also banned Pakistan People's Party (PPP) leader Benazir Bhutto from Punjab state for five days, to prevent her from taking part in a planned independence day rally. PPP sources said about 40 people were arrested in the march by between 300 and 500 young people in Lahore. The sources blamed damage on provocateurs. Police in riot gear cordoned off the area and no serious clashes were reported.

MRD leaders who escaped arrest said meetings would be held in Lahore, but the Interior Ministry spokesman warned that "provincial governments have taken requisite measures to maintain peace and tranquility" for independence day. The spokesman said arrests were made "to forestall any attempt by lawless elements disturbing the peace." He said the government was closely watching the situation and "has the clear intention to maintain peace at all costs."

Four policemen were earlier reported injured when a small crowd going to meet Miss Bhutto was barred from Faisalabad airport where she was due Wednesday. Police fired tear gas shells and opposition sources some 100 workers were taken into custody. [sentence as received]

In another development, retired Air Marshal Mohammed Asghar said his centrist Tehrik Istiqlal Party (TIP) had decided to quit the MRD in opposition to its "policy of confrontation." The soldier turned politician was a staunch opponent of the Miss Bhutto's father, Zulfiqar Bhutto, who was hung in 1979, and had been staying away from MRD meetings since last year when the PPP workers booed him at a public meeting in Lahore. The MRD alliance has now been reduced to nine parties.

Bhutto Defies Ban on Rallies

BK141140 Hong Kong AFP in English 1134 GMT 14 Aug 86

[Excerpt] Karachi, Aug 14 (AFP) — Pakistan opposition leader Benazir Bhutto on Thursday defied a government ban and led a motorcade to a rally in Karachi's Liyari slum district. Liyari is a major stronghold of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) founded by her executed father, former Prime Minister Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto. Eyewitnesses said that Bhutto supporters clashed with police and set four buses and a garbage truck on fire. Opposition sources said police used tear gas to disperse the stone throwing crowd.

Hundreds of supporters had driven out of Miss Bhutto's seaside villa, mostly on motor bikes and in private vehicles.

Witnesses said that ignoring a police warning that rallies and processions were banned in the city, she forced her way to the head of the throng and drove towards Chakiwara ground in Liyari. Police were following the motorcade and it was expected that she might be stopped from entering the trouble spot.

Sources at the Bhutto villa said convoy leaders told police they were headed for the mausoleum of Pakistan's founding father, Mohammed Ali Jinnah to lay wreaths to mark the 40th anniversary of independence. But in fact Miss Bhutto headed for Liyari.

Early Thursday, the government followed up mass arrests of opposition activists and a ban on independence day rallies with a ban on all gatherings of more than five people here in Karachi, the country's largest city. [passage omitted]

INDIAN EXPRESS Interviews Benazir Bhutto

BK071001 Delhi THE INDIAN EXPRESS in English 30 Jul 86 p 6

[Part one of two part undated interview with Pakistan People's Party leader Benazir Bhutto: "Benazir's Plans and Hopes;" place not stated]

[Text] After her tumultuous return to Pakistan in April, Benazir Bhutto has embarked on a campaign to force elections in a bid to topple the government of General Ziaul Haq and win power for the People's Party. In August both the government and the People's Party will hold rival rallies in Lahore to commemorate Pakistan's independence day. For General Zia it will be the most serious threat to his regime since he overthrew Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto nine years ago. For Benazir Bhutto it could be the beginning of a surprising ascent to power.

Last Friday, just back from a successful tour of her home province, Sind, Benazir Bhutto spoke at length on her campaign plans, the policies she would implement if she comes to power, and the type of relations she would seek with India, the United States and the Soviet Union. Following are excerpts from the interview.

Q. When you came to Pakistan in April you said it was your intention to get Gen. Zia to hold free and fair general elections by this autumn with full permission for the political parties to participate. So far, however, Gen. Zia has firmly refused. What do you now plan to do?
A. It is not the demand of the Pakistan People's Party but that of people of Pakistan that there should be elections on party basis. This is because for nine years we have not had a representative government, a legal government, we have not had a constitutional government. The people of Pakistan want a democratic government which reflects their views. Through peaceful rallies the people have demonstrated that they want change. It is the obduracy of the Zia regime which is complicating matters. The People's Party wants a peaceful transfer. We believe that Pakistan is located in a strategic part of the world, it is important that there should be no chaos, there should be no anarchy. We are doing our best to see that the change is peaceful. But the obduracy of Gen. Zia is not helping matters. Gen Zia should accept the verdict of the people. The best thing for our country, the best thing for democracy, the best thing for stability is that he should go. The People's Party is permitting him to go from the front door, because we want to close the chapter of the past. We want to begin anew. If Gen. Zia does not go through the front door then he will be making things very uncomfortable both for the general situation in Pakistan and for himself.

Q. What is the next step in your campaign for elections?
A. We are entering into a crucial stage. The regime has failed to respond and therefore we have no choice but to raise the tempo. So far we have only held a few rallies interspersed by long periods of time. But we will now have to increase the tempo of our rallies. During the month of Ramadan the party organised itself at the grassroots level. Now we intend to apply pressure at the grassroots level to compel the regime to give in to our demands. There is no power on earth that can face a people who are determined to gain their rights. If Zia does not give in to the demands of the people then he will find that the tempo of the people increases. And when the tempo of the people increases it becomes very difficult to continue administration in a normal manner.

Q. So in the next stage of your campaign you intend to paralyse the regime so as to force it to concede elections.
A. You use words that we do not use. But the peaceful nature of our struggle should not be misinterpreted by Gen. Zia as meaning that we will continue to accept him and that he can continue to be obdurate.

Q. Are you worried about the possibility, if the Zia regime continues to reject your call for general election, that things may so develop that despite your best efforts there could be violence?
A. Pakistan faces a political crisis. The obduracy of the military regime is not understandable in the face of this crisis. The administration needs to respond to the demands of the people because if they do not, then the pressure can only increase. There is still an opportunity today to bridge the chasm by peaceful means. But history shows that if such a moment is not taken then it can be lost. But change will come because change cannot be stopped. But then that change may not be peaceful.

Q. Are you worried that instead of succeeding in obtaining elections you may simply end up inviting the reimposition of martial law?
A. It is very strange that the public expression of what the people want should force the government which claims to be democratic to declare martial law. That would not be an answer to Pakistan's problems. Rather it would be an admission of failure by the present regime. And even if there is another martial law, Junejo and the National Assembly members and even Zia himself would be removed from the scene. So they have nothing to gain by it. And also I don't think the Army will itself want to step in. After all they have also experienced nine years of martial law and know the problems it has created.

Q. What will you do in autumn if the general still refuses to hold the elections?
A. I feel that in the wake of popular pressure there will be elections in autumn. So I consider this an academic question.

Q. But if there are no elections in autumn?
A. I don't foresee that possibility. I am confident (that there will be elections) because I have seen the strength of the people, I have seen the enthusiasm, I have seen their excitement, I have seen the way they have braved pelting rain to stand for a public meeting, how during the month of fasting they have come out on the streets to join the processions, how in the heat of the deserts they have lined the routes. They do not come to see me, they come because I have promised them a federal Pakistan, a democratic Pakistan, an egalitarian Pakistan. They want change and when there is such commitment there is naturally also confidence.

Q. There is some speculation that if elections are not held you may be forced to seek arrest or exile as a way of avoiding the fact that you have failed.
A. Before I came to the country people made many speculations. They said after one or two meetings the momentum will disappear. It did not. Then they said Ramadan is coming and the momentum will disappear. It did not. Then they said the summer heat is coming and the momentum will disappear. It did not. So I think these speculations are baseless. I have no intention of going into exile. If I am arrested I am confident that the people of Pakistan will set me free.

Q. Are you also saying that you have no intentions of seeking deliberate arrest if elections are not held by calling on the Army to mutiny or to not obey illegal orders or things like that?
A. Not at all. In fact, Gen. Zia has tried to provoke the People's Party into the very stand you have just described but we have refused to do so. We have no intention of obliging him with the pretext to arrest us.

Q. You have often said that your aim is to generate a mass movement and overwhelm the government with the sheer size and force of the demand for elections. And yet you have made no real effort to carry with you the other civilian politicians who, with you, form the Movement for the Restoration of Democracy [MRD].
A. That's not true. We have made every effort. In fact, our only fault is that we have made so much effort; we have not taken quarrels into the public domain, into the newspapers or out into the open. We always feel these matters should be resolved inside. Our position is very clear, it is for the other political parties to come out and state where they stand. Do they want to join the struggle for the autumn polls or do they not have the heart?

We are prepared to take all those within or outside the MRD who would like to be part of the caravan of change, who would like to be part of history, who would like to be part of the people's power. But it seems the MRD has its own pace of working things out and they have their own priorities. Our party is just one of the components. We have a different priority and we have a different pace. Therefore, because of our autumn deadline, we cannot take as much time as they do. The other parties should join our struggle. If they do we will have joint meetings. If they don't the people of Pakistan cannot wait on the wayside.

Q. What about dissent and divisions in your own party? Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi has openly challenged your position as co-chairman and there is speculation that along with Ghulam Mustafa Khar he may even be planning a split in your party.
A. But I am not a Tammany Hall leader. I am the leader of the people and I don't depend on party barons. What you see taking place now, if you want me to use the word irrelevant, is irrelevant. This is all very much in the newspapers, but if you go out into the country you will see how irrelevant these people are. There is no threat from them to me or my party. They threaten themselves.

Q. What efforts have you made within the country as a whole to win over some of the major interest groups who have been aligned against you, such as the Army, the bureaucracy, big business, and the clergy?
A. The Pakistan's People's Party has tried to neutralise the fears amongst those segements of society who have supported Ziaul Haq. But we don't like to interfere in the workings of the Army because it is also high treason to try and influence the Army as an institution to take a particularly political act. However, the Army comes from the country and so it cannot remain unaffected by what is taking place around it. During my tours in the Punjab I went through the Army's stronghold areas and I received huge and responsive crowds. A senior Army officer even said that the Army has nothing to fear from the return of the PPP, because it was not men like him who did the coup d'etat or sent the last prime minister to his death. There is a new generation of Army officers and in the last nine years this new generation has cut across all groups in the Army. When I was coming back from Dadu in the interior I passed three Army trucks and the officers inside made victory signs to me. They too come from this society, they too want stability, and Gen. Zia does not give them stability.

Q. Let's talk about the possibility of a government you may one day come to head. What sort of a government will it be and what will be its guiding ideology?
A. There are many problems that confront Pakistan at present and it will be our effort first and foremost to try and end the suspicions that have developed amongst the federating units of this country and thus secure the foundations of our state. Economically, we believe in the public sector and the private sector complementing each other. We want to eradicate illiteracy. Pakistan is the only country in the world where in the last nine years the rate of illiteracy has actually increased. For this we have a youth corps programme under which every graduate will be sent into the villages for six months. We want to end heroin addiction. And we also want to create a rural middle class as well as an urban middle class as this is the best future guarantee of the stability of democracy in Pakistan.

Q. In the past you have often described the ideology of a government you may come to head as 'Bhuttoism'. Many people look back on the tenure of your father as prime minister and remember the sweeping nationalisations. Would that be a feature of your economic policy?
A. No fresh nationalisations are on the agenda for the time being. But let me add something about Bhuttoism. What we have said does not mean that we want to bring about a Bhuttoist government. We have not said that we want to impose Bhuttoism on the government. What we have said is that Bhuttoism is the philosophy of the People's Party, it is our inspiration, it is our guidance. For us Bhuttoism stands for a constitutional government, a federal government, it stands for human rights, an independent judiciary, and a free press. But we do not intend to impose any ideology on the country as a whole.

Q. There is fear in some quarters that were you to win power you would seek revenge for all that your father and your family have suffered in the last decade.
A. We have been the victims of vindictive policies. We committed no crime but we were made to pay with our life. They have committed the crimes. But for the sake of our country I don't believe in looking backwards. I believe in looking forward. There are no guarantees that any individual can ever give, nor do I seek to give any guarantees. What I do seek though is to bring in a Pakistan which is totally different from that of Gen. Zia.

Q. Many people who might be prepared to accept a government headed by you in future nonetheless recoil from that prospect when they remember the excesses committed under your late father's government and fear that because you have never admitted to these excesses the same might happen again.
A. There were no excesses committed by the late prime minister. I know that he was someone who had a view of history and did not just live for his time or age but he lived for history and he wanted history to judge him. At the same time I do concede that maybe certain individuals committed some excesses which were wrong. But the excesses of an individual are not the excesses of a political party. And in any case those individuals are no longer with the People's Party. In future too if any individual tries to commit any excess he will find that he is no longer a member of the party. For me the name, the image of the party are very important. It's a name and image which we have carved out with tremendous suffering and sacrifice. We don't want that to be in vain.

Q. Turning to the policy of Islamisation pursued by Gen Zia, will your government continue and possibly take further this policy?
A. My party does not believe in using religion for political purposes. We feel that the name of religion has been exploited for the last nine years. In the view of the PPP we are all Muslims and there is no dispute about that.

Q. What therefore are the sort of Islamic acts passed by Gen. Zia which you will repeal?
A. All laws which are discriminatory or degrading to the individual.

Q. What about the laws pertaining to the rights of women as individuals?
A. I have said all laws that are discriminatory and degrading will be repealed.

Q. Will you repeal Gen. Zia's proposed constitutional amendment which gives greater jurisdiction to Islamic courts over civil ones?
A. I am not a constitutional expert. All I can say is that we are against discriminatory and degrading punishment and that we do not believe in exploiting religion for political dividends.

Q. Will you repeal the act of parliament passed in your father's time defining the Ahmedia or Quaidiani sect as not Muslim?
A. What we have seen in the last nine years is that certain sects like the Quaidianis have been discriminated on grounds of religion. We believe that every citizen of Pakistan regardless of religion should have the security provided by the law of the land.

Part 2 of Interview

BK071039 Delhi THE INDIAN EXPRESS in English 31 Jul 86 p 6

[Second and final part of undated interview with Pakistan People's Party leader Benazir Bhutto: "Benazir's Plans and Hopes;" place not stated]

[Text] According to Benazir Bhutto, a People's Party government in Pakistan would give high priority to establishing good relations with India. She believes that the two countries should abide by the Simla Agreement and make a step-by-step approach to solve their problems. Ms Bhutto also rules out a nuclear weapons programme under a People's Party government. The following are her answers to questions on these subjects:

Q. Six months ago, relations between Pakistan and India were said to be improving. Yet, today the two countries are as far apart as ever. What do you believe has gone wrong?
A. I am not really sure of Gen Zia's foreign policy with regard to India. We have lost territory to India in the Siachen Glacier region and at the same time the question of the Sikh problem has been mishandled by Gen. Zia. Relations with India sometimes seem to improve and sometimes fall back. I do believe that Pakistan and India made the most signifcant strides in good relations when there was a democratic government in this country, because democratic governments which reflect the true will of the people have the confidence to seek solutions. I feel that it is important for us to have good relations with Inda and certainly a People's Party government would make that one of its top priorities.

Q. In the eyes of many of your countrymen India is Pakistan's historic enemy. Do you think your own internal compulsions will allow the good relations you seek?
A. A journalist once told me that my father was the man who promised one thousand years of war against India. And I said to him, "Ah, he was also the man who signed with Mrs Gandhi a peace treaty which has brought about the longest peace between the two countries." I think it is important for us to abide by the Simla Agreement and make a steady step-by-step approach to solving our problems.

Q. Would your father's daughter seek a thousand years peace with India?
A. There is a new generation in power in India and with a new generation in power in Pakistan I hope that we will leave behind the bitterness and the prejudices of the past.

Q. The Indian government has repeatedly accused the Zia regime of sponsoring or aiding and abetting Sikh terrorism in Punjab. Do you believe this to be the case?
A. Well. Whatever I believe to be the case, it is not always prudent to go into such details when they involve your country and another country. All I will say is that they have mishandled the Sikh issue. If we are not backing the Sikhs, and the Zia regime claims that we are not, then we should certainly not leave any doubts on that score. Let me also add that had a democratic government been in power in Pakistan we would certainly not have tried to play a Sikh card for fear of another country playing a Sind card.

Q. Do you believe that Rajiv Gandhi, as the leader of the only democratic country amongst your neighbours, is doing enough to help the cause of democracy in Pakistan?
A. I don't think it is for other countries to help the cause of democracy in Pakistan. But certainly freedom and human rights are universal values and I do expect the moral support of India as I do expect the same from all countries of the world.

Q. Prime Minister Junejo has just returned from what has been commonly described as a successful visit to the United States. However the one cloud on the horizon was American reservations about Pakistan's nuclear programme. Do you believe that Pakistan has or is about to have or is near developing a nuclear bomb?
A. I am not privy to state secrets. Originally it was the People's Party government which started a nuclear programme for peaceful purposes and it is most unfortunate that doubts about its nature should now have crept in. These are undermining our relations with many countries of the world and I think it is important for Pakistan to set such doubts at rest.

Q. Do you believe that the doubts have substance?
A. Again I am not privy to state secrets.

Q. Do you believe that a poor third would country should contemplate a nuclear weapons programme?
A. Let me say that the future PPP government whilst developing nuclear energy for peaceful purposes would settle all doubts pertaining to the question of any military use.

Q. Does that mean that a poor third world country should not develop a nuclear weapons programme?
A. You believe in putting things in your words and I believe in saying things the way I think is appropriate. Under the future PPP government Pakistan will not contemplate developing a nuclear weapons programme. We need it for energy purposes, but for no other purposes, and we would be prepared to set all doubts on this score at rest.

Q. Were you to come to power and discover that the Zia regime had been developing a nuclear weapons programme and that it was either near completion or reasonably close to it, would you continue and even take it further?
A. Our policy is not for nuclear weapons, it is only for nuclear energy and we would not go on a weapons development program.

Q. So any development that has been undertaken by the Zia government would be stopped by you?
A. I don't know what development if any there, has been. All I can do is to reiterate the position of the Pakistan People's Party which is that we did not embark in the past nor do we intend to embark in the future on a weapons' policy. We only want nuclear energy for peaceful purposes and we are prepared to set all doubts at rest on this score because it has undermined our relations with other countries and it has complicated matters for Pakistan.

Q. Under what sort of circumstances would you consider developing a Pakistani nuclear weapons programme?
A. I don't think a solution to any problem lies in producing nuclear weapons. I don't foresee any circumstances under which we would develop such a weapon.

Q. Even if India were to develop its own and it were to be reliably known that it had done so?
A. Many people feel that India has already developed such a weapon but countries aren't in it for competition with each other. The defence of a country can be guaranteed by other means. I think the best defence for a country is when the people of the country have faith in their government. That is what gives stability to the government and therefore gives stability to the country.

Q. What sort of relations would you seek with the outside world should you come to power? Will you maintain the same pro-American, pro-Western policies as the present regime, or will you seek a closer understanding with the Soviet Union?
A. Well nothing happens in isolation. If today there has been an increased influence of the West or should I say the United States in Pakistan, it has been the result of the increased Soviet influence in Afghanistan. What I would seek to do is to make the situation free of external pressures. At the same time we appreciate the aid that has been given to us by the Western countries, in particular America, and we shall examine this in the light of our own interests.

Q. Are you saying that those left-wing elements of your party which speak in angry terms about the Untied States will not be influencing the attitude of any government you may come to form?
A. The People's Party is a democratic party and in such a party many different views are expressed. But we do recognise that the United States has a tremendous influence in this area, we do recognise that Pakistan is getting a tremendous amount of aid from the United States and certainly we will seek to have good relations with the United States. Of course, this does not exclude our having good relations with other countries. But let me reiterate, we have traditionally had very good relations with the United States and the West and we want this to continue and we do not propose to take any unilateral steps.

Q. There is some speculation that the Junejo government may seek membership of the Commonwealth. Would you and your party support such a step?
A. Well at the moment we are trying to get democracy in Pakistan and we are not giving much attention to such matters. It is for a new parliament to decide about the Commonwealth. We did leave the Commonwealth at the time when they accorded recognition to Bangladesh. Of course much time has passed since then. And it will be a decision taken in accordance with Pakistan's interests.

Q. Do you approve of the manner in which Gen Zia has handled the Afghan crisis and in particular the proximity talks in Geneva?
A. I don't know the details of the Afghan talks, but I do think that foreign policy should be determined on the basis of the interests of a nation. It is in the interest of Pakistan to have a political settlement with Afghanistan under which the Soviet troops withdraw and the Afghan refugees return home.

Q. What sort of change would you therefore like to see in Pakistan's Afghan policy which more accurately reflect what you call Pakistan's interests?

A. The number one problem for us is the presence of the refugees. In the past we have had two insurgencies in Pakistan which threatened the integrity of the country. Obviously with such a large presence of refugees, who are mainly Pathans, we are concerned that there should not be a fresh demand for a spearate Pathan homeland. So the most important thing for Pakistan is a policy which sees the refugees return to Afghanistan.

Q. Do you share the view held by many people in your country that recent changes in Afghan leadership as well as statements from the Kremlin are a sign that the Russians are ready and willing to withdraw and that as a result the time has come for the Pakistan government to respond in kind?
A. Any such signs would be constructive and significant but at the last count one still has to ask when will the troops withdraw and what are the conditions that will enable the refugees to return to their homeland. There are two different hypotheses about the indications coming out of the Kremlin: The first is the one you have described but the other is that the talks have slowed down because the position of the Soviet Union has hardened.

However, I do feel that in this matter the government must act with caution. I believe that this region has become a part of a wider superpower conflict and therefore it is very important that the wider detente is resumed. Whilst I think that all concrete gestures should be responded to. I do not know the details and so I am not in a position to comment on why the government is not responding and it is very difficult to speak in the absence of details.

Q. Should you in near future be in a position to determine Pakistan's Afghan policy, what sort of a timeframe would you be prepared to allow the Soviet Union? It is believed that the Russians have asked for 4 years whilst Pakistan has offered 4 months.
A. I think from Pakistan's point of view the sooner the better. But beyond that it would not be wise for me to go into further details without knowing the full picture.

Protest Lodged With DRA Envoy Over Border Shelling

BK131721 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 13 Aug 86

[Text] Afghan Armed Forces fired 79 rounds of artillery in the Shilman area of Khyber Agency this morning between 0630 and 1015 hours [13 August]. As a result, one civilian and two Afghan refugees were injured. One civilian pickup was also destroyed.

The Afghan charge d'affaires was summoned to the Foreign Office this evening and a strong protest was lodged with him over the unprovoked attack.

SRI LANKA

Foreign Ministry Spokesman on Boat People

BK131139 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 13 Aug 86

[Excerpts] Canadian aircraft will continue searching the North Atlantic today for the ship that abandoned more than 150 Sri Lankan Tamils in the 2 overcrowded life boats off the Canadian coast. The men, women, and children drifting at sea with only small amount of drinking water were spotted on Monday night 6 miles south of Newfoundland by three Canadian (? fishing vessels). [passage omitted]

In Colombo, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said that the picture was unclear at present, and the Sri Lanka high commissioner in Canada, Tissa Weeratunge, was in touch with the Canadian authorities.

Economy 'Paralysed' Following Terrorist Activities

BK121155 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 1130 GMT 12 Aug 86

[Excerpts] Colombo, Aug 12 (*Lanka Puwath*) — Sri Lankan Land, Land Development and Mahaweli Development Minister Gamini Dissanayake has said that, the insurrection in 1971 was one launched by Sinhala youth but the 1981 demand for a separate state was one launched by The Tamil youth being backed by Tamil Nadu.

Minister Dissanayake expressed the hope that the Indian Government will extend all possible co-operation in the peace process now being introduced by the Sri Lankan Government under the astute leadership of Sri Lankan President Junius Jayewardene. [passage omitted]

He said that due to the present trend of affairs in this country, the economy has been seriously paralysed following terrorist activities. Government is compelled to expand rs. 12,000 million annually for the defence of the country due to terrorism.

Minister Dissanayake said that the proposal to set up provincial councils will undoubtedly pave the way to continue to preserve the democratic process of this country. This will enable the maintenance of a multi-racial, multi-lingual and a multi-religious society. Such a step will enable in creating peace and harmony among all communities and people of different religious faiths.

Further Reportage on Clashes With Tamil Separatists

1 Dead in 12 Aug Firefight

BK130811 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0800 GMT 13 Aug 86

[Text] Colombo, Aug 13 (*Lanka Puwath*) — Separatist terrorists who were trapped in a coconut grove by security forces at Kovilkudiyaruppu near the Koneswaran temple in Trincomalee, eastern Sri Lanka yesterday, fled and hid inside civilian homes when they were receiving a severe beating, government sources told *Lanka Puwath* today. However, the security forces with due consideration for the lives of the civilians did not pursue the terrorists.

Terrorists attacked the security forces near the Koneswaran temple and the security forces came under heavy fire but the troops were not provided with air cover nor were any aeriel attacks carried out.

Terrorist fire killed one soldier and wounded three other soldiers.

Troops refrained from firing at the Koneswaran temple where the terrorists were attacking them. When the terrorists moved out to a nearby coconut grove about 600 metres from the kovil [temple], troops attacked them.

Terrorists were badly wounded and fled into nearby civilian homes. Troops did not pursue as it would harm the civilians. A wounded terrorist was captured.

Majlis Speaker Denies Importance of Attack on Sirri

LD132302 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 13 Aug 86

[Interview with 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, spokesman for the Supreme Defense Council, by unidentified correspondent in Tehran on 13 August — recorded]

[Excerpts] [Unidentified correspondent] Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, could you tell us what were the most important topics discussed at tonight's session of the Supreme Defense Council, as well as the decisions adopted, bearing in mind the recent developments and the dispatch of 500 battalions of fresh troops?
[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The situation at the front and the new wickedness experienced in the war — Iraq's recent attacks on civilian targets — as well as our reaction to current and future retaliation were discussed. Some decisions were made. [passage omitted]

The general mobilization and general departure for the front — a current topic, the first step of which concerns the 500 battalions — was not discussed at today's session of the council, but it is still an important matter for us. In general, the corps is ready to receive the new forces. Training camps have been made ready throughout the country. The necessary cadres to absorb and organize these forces are ready. The Army is cooperating, and resources in terms of arms and individual and collective equipment have been made ready. The formation of 500 battalions should be implemented expeditiously. We expect the country's officials, the war support headquarters and the people themselves to provide the necessary cooperation to carry out the program satisfactorily, God willing.

[Correspondent] Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, in the course of your remarks you mentioned the matter of retaliation. In the past 3 days, we have seen the forces of Islam retaliate with their missile attack on Baghdad. Could you say how successful you regard that action was and how long this retaliation will continue?
[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] This is the only option open to us. We believe that we have been forced to accept that option bitterly. We planned it. We identified Iraq's economic and military centers, most of which are within the range of our artillery, missiles, and military aircraft. Orders have been issued to the Armed Forces to take severe action. All this depends on the extent of Iraq's aggressions. At whatever level the Iraqis commit wickedness, we retaliate one degree higher, for we have no other choice. We believe that, as was the case in the war of cities, Iraq will eventually regret their actions. Usually the Iraqis realize a little too late what has happened to them. Once they have suffered losses and realize that it has become intolerable for them, they state: We are responding to an appeal from here or there.

We hope that our Armed Forces this time will make Iraq regret its action very soon. We have already demonstrated that. Everyone knows that hitting a refinery with a missile from long distance is a skillful military action. Iraq has fired missiles in the past as well, but usually at a big city. When you fire a missile at a big city, it usually hits something. In most cases it hits something outside the city. Our combatants' missiles, however, have so far not missed their targets. In particular, hitting a refinery in a town is a sign of strength.

[Correspondent] Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, we recently witnessed an Iraqi aircraft raid on the new oil terminal in Sirri. Because this island is extremely far from Iraqi soil, what is your analysis of the situation and what response has the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to such deeds?
[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] The situation is completely confused. To begin with, the matter is not so important as to justify the resulting commotion, a commotion in which all of our enemies -- the Zionists, imperialists, reactionaries, and the Iraqis themselves -- obviously cooperated. We are currently transporting oil from various points to Sirri where we deliver it to ships. Well, we could do the same a little further away. We could even take the oil to Chah Bahar. In other words, we have a long coastline and wherever we wish to deliver oil we can do so very easily by setting up a shipping center and delivering oil there. Therefore, this is not a dangerous development for us as people have said.

However, from our standpoint the origin of the issue is suspect and we believe that that it is quite different from what these people have said. It is something else completely. It is patently obvious that others took part in this incident. We have ample proof. Our maritime listening posts have recorded their conversations; our radar facilities have tracked their course. Naturally, it is becoming clear, and those who were in some way involved know the extent of our information. Therefore, the issue is that Iraq was not involved alone. This is a demonstration, a special demonstration that they magnified greatly. However, they will definitely not achieve anything from their action. They may even suffer some harm because of their participation.

[Correspondent] Yes, Mr Hashemi-Rajsanjani, it became known recently that UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar, spoke about not attacking non-military targets with regard to Iran and Iraq. I would like to know the views of the Supreme Defense Council in this regard.
[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] They began to magnify this incident to a certain extent as of today. The Arab radios in particular have played up this incident. Usually, when they realize that we are about to retaliate in a serious manner, a commotion starts. After the missile strike at the Al-Dawrah refinery this incident reached its peak.

However, despite this satanism, we accept the UN secretary general's invitation because we oppose action against non-military targets in principle. We think that the war should be waged on the fronts and that the military is waging this war. However, civilian areas and people working there become the target of raids. One way or another a factory can be linked with the country's economy and the economy is linked with the war. One could link everything with the war. If we were to do this we would not have any limits on safeguarding civilians and population centers. One could then attack any place under the same pretext! Therefore, we welcome the suggestion by the UN secretary general and we are prepared, should the Iraqis also agree not to launch raids against non-military targets, to halt our raids. We say here and now though, that should Iraq refuse to accept, or to accept and then violate the agreement, we would implement the vast plan we have prepared.

[Correspondent] Yes. Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, in my last question, I would like to ask about the aircraft from Asseman Airlines. One of the pilots defected to Iraq and claimed that he had also been your private pilot. Could you please tell us your views on such actions in general?
[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] The whole incident indicates that our enemies are in dire need of propaganda tricks. It was a small incident in which an unknown pilot, whose dossier subsequently came to light and whose record is not good, took a small civilian training aircraft belonging to the Asseman Co. from one of the northern cities and fled toward an enemy, together with two or three members of his family. Of course, the incident is bitter to us when an Iranian, a Muslim, embarks on such a betrayal of his country, steals an aircraft, and delivers it to the enemy during wartime. This demonstrates how much such people are worth. However, the propaganda that followed showed that they were thirsty for a subject to exploit. Apparently, they still think that officials of the Islamic Republic have private aircraft and private pilots. This shows how uninformed they are, when somebody so insignificant can make a vague allegation and they then blow it out of proportion. I do not think that this incident is worth much of our time and attention.

[Correspondent] Thank you very much.

Majlis Speaker Discusses Ties With Japanese Envoy

LD131045 Tehran IRNA in English 1007 GMT 13 Aug 86

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 13, IRNA — Japanese ambassador to Tehran Yutaka Nomura and Iran's Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani discussed expansion of relations between the two countries, in a meeting here Wednesday.

During the meeting, the Japanese ambassador stressed strengthening of bilateral relations and said that formation of the new government in his country would not alter the country's foreign policy.

Khamene'i Interviewed on War, New OPEC Policy

LD131334 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 13 Aug 86

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, the Cabinet met today in the presence and chairmanship of Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, the president. At the conclusion of this session, our correspondent interviewed the president:

[Begin recording] [Question] Khamene'i, would you please explain what the main issues raised during today's Cabinet session and what decisions were taken?

[Khamene'i] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The oil minister, Aqazadeh, presented a lengthy report on the recent OPEC conference and future outcome of the decision made by OPEC at Iran's initiative. A significant part of the session was allocated to this issue. Another issue of debate was the Foreign Affairs Ministry's report on future session of the Nonaligned Movement. Achievements of the Foreign Affairs Ministry and other responsible brothers and their preparation for future [nonaligned] session were raised and our brothers in the Cabinet expressed their views on this issue. These were the main issues raised. Of course, the Cabinet presented several bills for approval. It was decided to expand Mashhad Airport as an international airport. Several other bills were also debated.

[Question] What was discussed on the war issue and latest developments of the front?
[Khamene'i] Those brothers who had some news presented their reports to the government. The issue of battlefronts and our strong retaliation, in response to Iraq, and our attack on military and industrial targets were raised and discussed. What has been done and what is planned to be done, were reviewed and studied.

[Question] In view of the fact that Iran's proposal to OPEC has increased oil prices, what is your message, as the Islamic President of Iran, to the OPEC members?
[Khamene'i] My message is this: We should all strive together in order to implement this decision and prevent its failure or weakening, as everyone felt this was a solution to OPEC's nearly insoluble problems; in fact, this step removed the OPEC impasse. And as every member has accepted it, this shows that it is everyone's interest, that is OPEC interests. In my message to the leaders of OPEC in the Friday prayers sermons, I said we believe that from 1 September -- which is our deadline for returning to the 1984 quotas -- they should strongly follow this decision and the countries should prepare themselves to observe this decision from 1 September. Of course, the period has been fixed for 2 months originally, but we predict that after implementing this decision from 1 September, OPEC will be encouraged to continue observing this decision. [end recording]

Further Reportage on Visit of Turkish State Minister

Concludes Visit, Departs 13 Aug

LD131820 Tehran IRNA in English 1746 GMT 13 Aug 86

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 13, IRNA — The visiting economic delegation of Turkey left Tehran after signing a supplemental note of understanding Wednesday.

The Turkish delegation, headed by that country's state minister for economic affairs Mustafa Tinaz Titiz, was seen off by the Iranian Heavy Industries Minister Behzad Nabavi.

The supplemental note of understanding was signed by Titiz and Nabavi on behalf of their respective countries Wednesday afternoon.

Following his approval of the note, Titiz told reporters that the agreement will result in a change in the anticipated volume of trade between the two countries in 1986. The export of Iranian non-oil goods play a fundamental role in the letter of understanding. He added.

On the construction of oil and gas pipelines from Iran to Turkey, Titiz noted that comprehensive talks have been held and expert delegations of the two countries will follow up the negotiations in this regard over the next six months.

Behzad Nabavi termed the negotiations, on the economic and technical cooperation of Iran and Turkey between the two sides as "fruitful".

Nabavi further added that the two countries have agreed to find markets for Iranian gas in Europe, and thereby, extend the pipelines from Turkey to the continent.

The Turkish economic-technical delegation, headed by Mustafa Tinaz Titiz, arrived in Tehran on August 8 and held several meetings on economic cooperation and trade with Iranian officials.

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq

Iraqi Kirkuk Oil Installation Hit

LD131415 Tehran IRNA in English 1402 GMT 13 Aug 86

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 13, IRNA — Iraqi oil installations three kms northeast of Kirkuk were bombed and set ablaze by Iranian jet fighters around noon Wednesday as a result of which parts of the installations including its computerized control center sustained heavy damage.

A senior Iranian Air Force Officer told IRNA here that the Iranian fighters after successfully carrying out the mission returned safely to bases.

The bombed Iraqi oil installations with a daily production of one million barrels of oil was a major Iraqi oil-producing center.

Communique No 2,562

LD131626 Tehran IRNA in English 1614 GMT 13 Aug 86

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 13, IRNA — Iraq's Kirkuk oil installations sustained heavy damage when they were bombed by Iranian jet fighters at 1215 hours (0845 hours GMT) Wednesday. The fighters after successfully carrying out the mission returned safely to bases, said a military communique here Wednesday.

Joint Staff Communique Number 2562 said that at least five Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and several gun emplacements and one command jeep of theirs set ablaze in the southern fronts Tuesday when they were shelled by Iranian Gendarmerie forces.

Iranian artillery heavily pounded supply routes and positions of Iraqi forces in Bakhtaran and Ilam border provinces Tuesday destroying five enemy gun emplacements with their crews. They also halted Iraqi engineering operations and checked movements of enemy tanks.

The communique said that a convoy of Iraqi patrols attempting to infiltrate Iranian positions in Qasr-e Shirin Tuesday was repelled.

A large number of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and parts of enemy positions together with one munitions dump destroyed in Piranshahr, Sardasht and Marivan operational theaters in artillery duels with Iranian forces on Tuesday, the communique said.

In the southern fronts, the communique said, Iranian forces reconnoitered Iraqi positions and checked enemy supply and transport operations Tuesday. In Chananeh, some Iraqi patrols sustained casualties and were forced to flee.

According to the communique Iraqi military operations and movement of enemy motorized columns were checked in operational theaters of Chazzabeh, Nahr-Anbar and Halaleh Tuesday.

Iranian long-range artillery fire continued pounding Iraq's industrial centers in five parts of Basrah on Monday, said the military communique.

Meanwhile, the city of Abadan in Khuzestan Province incurred damage when it was hit by long-range artillery fire over the past few days.

Radio Iran on Sayyad-Shirazi's 'Elimination'

NC091240 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian 1330 GMT 8 Aug 86

[Station commentary]

[Text] Colonel Sayyad-Shirazi has joined the ranks of the revolution's living martyrs. He has been removed from the Armed Forces command, but a post was created for him in the Supreme Defense Council before his ouster. Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, chief of the Supreme Defense Council, alleged that this action was due to Col Sayyad-Shirazi's pressing duties in that body.

It may be worth noting that Mohsen Rafiqdust, minister of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, and Sayyad-Shirazi, former ground forces commander, were accepted as members of the Supreme Defense Council at the same time. At this point the following question arises: Will Mohsen Rafiqdust suffer Sayyad-Shirazi's fate? Will the mullahs treat the Revolution Guards as they have treated the Armed Forces? If the responsibilities of membership in the Supreme Defense Council are so demanding that one cannot attend to other matters, why is Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i the president of the Islamic Republic and the Friday imam of Tehran? Why does 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani hold two jobs — speaker of the Islamic Majlis and Friday imam ad interim? Do not Mohsen Reza'i and Mohsen Rafiqdust — one of whom is commander of the Guards Corps and the other a minister — have the same pressing responsibilities in their respective posts? Col Sayyad-Shirazi was second in command of the Supreme Defense Council after Brigadier Zahirnezhad.

It is not clear why the duties of this council are so time-consuming as to prevent one from doing anything else. If the Supreme Defense Council meets for a few hours a day and for a few days a week, why is membership there such an exacting thing? The truth is this: Col Sayyad-Shirazi has not been given any sort of responsibility, but has been discreetly dismissed as commander of the ground forces!

The elimination of Sayyad-Shirazi highlights this important fact: The Islamic Republic of Iran does not permit its military commanders to remain in one post for a long period of time. The same is true of the Army, the Gendarmerie, and the police. The chiefs of police departments, police stations, and villages, as well as commanders of the Armed Forces, are reshuffled from time to time. This is because the regime fears the Armed Forces. Col Sayyad-Shirazi's record shows that even an Army officer who toes the imam's line and is given various privileges, such as being allowed to address the Friday prayer meetings at Tehran University, will never enjoy the complete confidence of the mullahs' government. Sayyad-Shirazi kissed the imam's hand and reverently touched it to his eyes. He cleaned the imam's plate, not as a true military officer, but as a member of the regime, and was like putty in his hands! He cleaned their vegetables for them [Persian expression for extreme servility], displayed the same sycophancy, and told the same lies that we have heard from other propagators of the Islamic regime. Despite this, he wound up like Brig Zahirnezhad.

Sayyad-Shirazi's sole mistake was writing a report that was submitted to the Defense Ministry stating that members of the Armed Forces were unhappy and were justified in being so, as they felt discriminated against in comparison with the Revolution Guards. He added that if this situation in the Armed Forces were to continue, it would assume alarming proportions. The government did not take any measures to redress the balance between the Armed Forces and the Guards Corps, and continued to chop the roots and leaves of the military.

The regime is so terrified of the Armed Forces that it has stood by its policy of weakening the Army even in times of war. If the conduct of the war had been left in the hands of the Armed Forces, the country would have never had to suffer such casualties and losses. The regime continues its foolish policy of (?pruning) the Armed Forces despite being embroiled in a war of attrition. It continues to shuffle the commanders and chiefs of the Armed Forces, even at the cost of destabilizing the pillars of the country's defense. The regime feels threatened even if one commander, no matter how talented, stays in one post too long. Sayyad-Shirazi's removal was the most significant change in the Armed Forces, but it was not the first, and it will certainly not be the last!